

2.4.7 Fire Management

Proposed Plan (Alternatives B & C). Response to wildland fire is based on ecological, social and legal consequences of the fire. The circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and other values to be protected dictate the appropriate management response to the fire. Based on these factors, the following fire management categories are identified for the following vegetation communities (Figure 2-5):

Fire Management Category A. The following communities are areas where fire would not be desired at all: sand dunes and sand fields. Immediate suppression is a critical element of fire management in these desert environments because fire historically has never played a large role in the development and maintenance of the ecosystem.

Fire Management Category B. The following vegetation communities are areas where wildfire is not desired: (1) desert scrub, (2) desert alkali scrub, (3) marsh, (4) dry wash woodland, pinyon-juniper woodland and mesquite, and (5) riparian areas. Immediate suppression is a critical element of fire management in these desert communities because fire historically has never played a large role in the development and maintenance of these communities. Prescribed fire may be utilized as a resource management tool in very select situations, for example to effectively manage exotic vegetation.

Fire Management Category C. (1) Oak woodlands and forest communities and (2) chaparral communities are areas where wildland fire (including prescribed burning) may be allowed. The following constraints must be considered in determining the appropriate level of suppression: (1) emphasize protection of life and property, especially trail users and montane communities, (2) evaluate potential beneficial or adverse effects on threatened and endangered species habitat, especially endemic species, (3) evaluate potential for adverse effects to significant or sensitive cultural and other natural resources, (4) promote mosaic pattern of vegetation resulting from different fire histories within the larger landscape, (5) protect areas so that they do not burn at less than 15 year intervals.

No Action Alternative (Alternatives A & D). No habitats would be categorized at this time. Manage fire in accordance with CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and the California Desert District-wide Fire Management Plan.

2.4.8 Special Area Designations

Special areas, those in need of special management attention, may be designated as such through a variety of mechanisms and titles. Wilderness Areas are designated legislatively and are the most restrictive in terms of allowable uses. National

Monuments may be designated legislatively or by Presidential order. The level of use restrictions within National Monuments can be established by the law, executive order or through a collaborative planning process. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are designated through the BLM land use planning process in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.7-2 for the protection of natural and cultural resources and human health and safety. The level of allowable use within an ACEC is established through the collaborative planning process. Designation of an ACEC allows for resource use limitations in order to protect identified resources or values. ACECs are subject to strict guidelines to support their designation.

Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMAs) are an administrative designation (BLM Manual 6780) also established through the 43 CFR 1610 land use planning process. WHMAs are designed to identify areas requiring special management attention for the protection of important wildlife resources. The level of allowable use within a WHMA is established through the collaborative planning process. In practice, both ACECs and WHMAs can achieve the same resource condition objectives. However, ACEC designation often connotes a higher level of political sensitivity and public awareness.

Proposed Plan (Alternative A). Designate the Coachella Valley Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) to include BLM-managed lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas which are outside existing ACECs, Wilderness Areas, National Monuments, proposed NECO Chuckwalla WHMA, and freeway interchanges in the NECO overlap area (Figure 2-6a). Existing ACEC boundaries would remain unchanged.

Alternative B. Expand Dos Palmas ACEC to include BLM-managed lands within the Dos Palmas CVMSHCP conservation area. Designate the Upper Mission Creek ACEC to include BLM-managed lands within the Upper Mission Creek conservation sub-area. Designate remaining BLM-managed lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas and outside ACECs, proposed NECO Chuckwalla WHMA, and existing Wilderness Areas and National Monuments as the Coachella Valley WHMA (Figure 2-6b).

Alternative C. Designate BLM-managed lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas which are outside existing ACECs, Wilderness Areas, National Monuments, proposed NECO Chuckwalla WHMA, and freeway interchanges in the NECO overlap area as the Coachella Valley ACEC (Figure 2-6c).

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). No BLM-managed lands would be given additional designations beyond those currently listed in the CDCA Plan as amended and those established by law. Existing ACEC boundaries shall remain unchanged.

Table 2-5: Alternative Special Area Designation Acreages

Special Area Designation	Alternative A Acreage	Alternative B Acreage	Alternative C Acreage	Alternative D Acreage
Potential ACECs	0	6,850	40,541	0
Potential Wildlife Habitat Mgt Area	40,541	33,691	0	0
Existing ACECs	61,419	61,419	61,419	61,419
Wilderness Areas	166,860 acres; Set by law and not changeable through planning			
National Monument	90,009 acres; Set by law and not changeable through planning			

2.4.9 Land Tenure: Exchange & Sale Criteria

Land tenure refers to ownership of a parcel of land. BLM-managed public lands are owned by the United States Government as the land steward for the citizens of the United States. Land tenure adjustments can be made through various mechanisms. BLM lands acquired through acquisition are purchased from willing sellers or are donated by members of the public. Monies for acquisition are generally appropriated by Congress through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Land may also be acquired through exchange in which the private landowner proposes “offered lands” and identifies BLM-managed “selected lands” for exchange. All proposed land exchanges are subject to environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other environmental laws, are subject to public review and input, and are subject to land appraisals, to ensure the proposed exchange is in the public’s best interest. Selected BLM lands will be evaluated for presence of mineral resources and significant cultural and Native American sites. If found, these values will be compensated for, mitigated, or not made available for exchange in accordance with law, regulation, and policy. BLM may also sell unclassified public lands.

All land exchange, sale and acquisition proposals are discretionary Bureau actions, depending on overall Bureau priorities and resource capabilities at the time. In other words, even if a proposed land exchange meets all of the criteria listed below, the BLM authorized officer may opt to not consider the land exchange at that time.

Proposed Plan (Alternatives B & C). BLM lands in the Coachella Valley would generally be retained in public ownership. The following criteria would be applied in evaluating the suitability of land exchanges and sales. Land sales would only be conducted if reasonable opportunities for land exchange are not available in order to provide land base in support of the CVMSHCP. Land exchanges and sales may be considered if they would:

1. Facilitate effective and efficient management of conservation areas;
2. Be conducted in coordination with the local jurisdictions;
3. Would result in a net benefit to the conservation areas or divert intensive uses away from sensitive areas;

4. Not remove rare species nor their habitat, nor remove rare habitat types from conservation management;
5. Not remove eligible historic properties from conservation management; and
6. Not divest of public domain lands in a manner which eliminates a significant public benefit.

Proposed exchanges or sales would be conducted in coordination with the local jurisdictions to ensure the proposed exchange would meet the larger multi-jurisdictional objectives of habitat conservation and support to local communities in the Coachella Valley. All land exchanges and sales would be subject to consultation requirements under the Endangered Species Act. Disposal of specific parcels through exchange or sale may require biological or cultural field surveys in order to complete consultation. Site specific application of the criteria and determinations identifying necessary surveys would occur once project proposals are received.

The following is an example of how these criteria may be employed. Public lands in the Coachella Valley with significant sand and gravel resources have especially high monetary values. If such parcels were selected for a proposed exchange, the offered lands must be within the conservation areas, and the offered lands would help to block up the public land ownership pattern, thereby facilitating effective and efficient management of the conservation areas. The selected BLM parcels may not contain rare species, rare habitat types. Historic properties must be protected. The exchange may be designed such that sand and gravel resources on selected BLM parcel would continue to be available to support community needs, providing it meets environmental and zoning requirements administered by Riverside County. In summary, an exchange which benefits assembly and management of conservation areas, as well as providing for community needs for materials to support home construction and road maintenance, could be approved.

No Action Alternative (Alternatives A & D). Public land disposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the CDCA Plan (1980 as amended). Class C, L and I lands may be exchanged, but not sold.

2.4.10 Land Tenure: Acquisition Criteria

Proposed Plan (Alternatives B & C). Acquisition proposals are discretionary Bureau actions, depending on overall Bureau priorities and resource capabilities at the time. Acquisition proposals would be required to meet the following criteria. Proposed acquisitions would:

1. Be acquired from willing sellers only;
2. Be conducted in coordination with the local jurisdictions;
3. Benefit the Coachella Valley conservation areas by a) directly augmenting public ownership in a sensitive area or b) diverting uses away from sensitive areas by providing opportunities elsewhere for recreation use

- including hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, off-highway vehicle use, and other activities; or
4. Improve the presence of a variety of biotic or abiotic habitat components under conservation management.

No Action Alternative (Alternatives A & D). Acquisitions would be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the CDCA Plan 1980 as amended.

2.4.11 Management of Acquired Lands and Formerly Withdrawn Lands, including OHV Designations

Proposed Plan (Alternatives A, B & C). Lands acquired by purchase, donation or lands removed from withdrawal status shall be managed in accordance with the CDCA Plan, as amended and the applicable land and mineral laws upon issuance of an opening order published in the *Federal Register*. Lands located within the boundaries of ACECs or any other area having an administrative designation established through the land use planning process shall become part of the area within which they are located and managed accordingly upon issuance of the opening order.

Off-highway vehicle area designations would be applied to lands acquired through purchase, donation, or exchange through the following criteria as part of this CDCA Plan Amendment:

- Lands acquired within Congressionally designated wilderness boundaries, would be designated “closed” as per the Wilderness Act of 1964, the California Desert Protection Act, or other applicable legislation.
- Lands acquired within Big Morongo Canyon and Dos Palmas ACECs would be designated as “limited”; casual motorized-vehicle travel would be restricted to routes designated “open.”
- Lands acquired within the Coachella Valley, Willow Hole-Edom Hill, and Indian Avenue Preserves would be designated “limited” consistent with the Coachella Valley Preserve System Management Plan and Decision Record (November, 1995); casual motorized-vehicle travel would be restricted to routes designated “open.”
- Lands acquired within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, and within the scope of this CDCA Plan Amendment, would be designated as “limited” as per the National Monument Act (Public Law 106-351, October 24, 2000); casual motorized-vehicle travel would be restricted to routes designated “open.”
- Lands acquired within designated “open” areas would be designated as “open.”
- All other lands acquired within the planning area covered by this plan amendment, and otherwise currently designated as “limited,” would also be designated as “limited.” Casual motorized-vehicle travel would be restricted to routes designated “open.”

Existing routes on lands acquired by BLM would be designated through the following criteria as part of this CDCA Plan Amendment:

- If the existing route provides the only access to private property, the route would be designated “limited” or “open” depending on the needs of the property owner and consideration of the other criteria below.
- If the existing route is the continuation of a County-maintained road across the acquired parcel, and is needed to provide connectivity of the road across public or private lands, then the route would be designated “open.”
- If the route is a continuation of an existing “open” route on public lands that provides the only access or connectivity to another “open” route on adjacent public lands, the route would be designated “open.”
- If the acquired parcel is within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, a designated ACEC, or multi-jurisdictional preserve area, and if the existing route is not part of, or does not provide access or connectivity to, an existing “open” route in the special area or preserve, then the route would be “closed” per the existing management plan or record of decision.
- If a route on an acquired parcel within one of the above special management areas is an extension or segment of an existing “open” or “limited” route that provides access to public facilities or visitor services, then the route would have the same “open” or “limited” designation as the existing segments.
- If the route on an acquired parcel is a segment, or an extension, of a “closed” route on public lands, then the route would be “closed.”
- New routes constructed as part of a right-of-way or other authorization which would require that the route be closed to protect property or public safety, would be designated as “limited” or “closed” consistent with the appropriate plan of operation or right-of-way grant, and record of decision.
- New routes constructed for access to public use or visitor facilities, such as trailheads or interpretive sites, and authorized under an activity plan and record of decision, would be designated as “limited” or “open” consistent with the appropriate plan.
- Routes on acquired lands that are redundant or parallel to existing “open” routes (within 0.25 mile) would be closed to provide resource protection and attainment of PM10 air quality standards.
- Routes on acquired lands that are identified in the CVMSHCP or other multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan would be designated in accordance with the management prescriptions in the plan.
- Routes on acquired lands that have been designated as an OHV open area, would be designated “open.”
- Routes on acquired lands that have been designated as closed to OHV use, would be designated “closed” if the route does not serve an essential public purpose, provide the only access to private property, or fall within one of the above categories.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Acquired and formerly withdrawn lands are not subject to the applicable land and minerals laws until an opening order is issued by BLM and published in the *Federal Register* (43 CFR 2091.6 and 2091.8)

2.4.12 Communication Sites & Utilities

Alternative A. Mitigate energy production and communications site uses on public lands based on habitat conservation. Rights-of-way for new and renewals of windparks, communications sites, and utilities would be considered within conservation areas, if habitat conservation objectives could be met using appropriate mitigation measures.

Proposed Plan (Alternative B). Facility design, site availability and use of public lands to support energy production and communications services would be consistent with habitat conservation. Windpark development would be permitted in designated areas (Figure 2-7) and new towers within existing communication sites on a space available basis and consistent with habitat conservation objectives using appropriate mitigation measures. Proposed utilities within designated utility corridors and within conservation areas may be considered, consistent with the habitat conservation objectives. Proposed utilities would be designed or mitigation measures imposed to ensure new utilities within conservation areas avoid impacts to sensitive plants, endemic species and their habitats, and to significant cultural resources.

Alternative C. Limit availability of public lands to support energy production and communications services to existing sites. No new communication sites nor windparks within CVMSHCP conservation areas. Renewals would be considered on a case-by-case basis consistent with habitat conservation objectives. Retire inactive windpark sites. Proposed utilities within designated utility corridors and within conservation areas may be considered, consistent with the habitat conservation objectives. Proposed utilities would be designed or mitigation measures imposed to ensure new utilities within conservation areas avoid impacts to sensitive plants, endemic species and their habitats, and to significant cultural resources.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Rights-of-way for new windparks, renewals of existing windparks, communications sites, and utilities will be considered on a space available basis in conformance with CDCA Plan, as amended.

2.4.13 Sand and Gravel Mining

Alternative A. Continue to provide sand and gravel and other mineral material resources to support road maintenance, infrastructure, housing construction and other community needs in the Coachella Valley. Saleable mineral material extraction would be allowed within CVMSHCP conservation areas and outside of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, if habitat conservation objectives could be met using appropriate mitigation measures.

Proposed Plan (Alternative B). Continue to provide sand and gravel and other mineral material resources to support road maintenance, infrastructure, housing construction and other community needs in the Coachella Valley. Mineral materials sales within the CVMSHCP conservation areas would be restricted to State of California Division of Mines and Geology classified and designated resource areas (Figure 2-7), and new mining proposals would be allowed if habitat conservation objectives could be met using appropriate mitigation measures. Outside the conservation areas, mining may be considered consistent with federal laws and regulations.

Alternative C. BLM lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas would be closed to saleable mineral material extraction.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Continue to provide sand and gravel and other mineral material resources to support road maintenance, infrastructure, housing construction and other community needs in the Coachella Valley. Saleable mining actions would be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the CDCA Plan (1980 as amended).

2.4.14 Livestock Grazing

Proposed Plan (Alternative A). Whitewater Canyon Allotment (Figure 2-8) management emphasis will be on the compatibility with (1) with conservation objectives of the desert tortoise, arroyo toad, and riparian habitat values, and (2) use of, and access to, intermingled private lands. Grazing would continue as a permitted use until the lessee voluntarily relinquishes the permitted use and preference, at which time the allotment would become unavailable for grazing. Upon BLM's relinquishment acceptance, the BLM will, without further analysis or notice, not reissue the lease; remove the allotment designation; and assume any and all private interest in range improvements located on public lands.

Alternative B. Retire that portion of the Whitewater Canyon grazing allotment north of the San Bernardino/Riverside County Line. Adjust season of use and grazing capacity accordingly.

Alternative C. Retire the entire Whitewater Canyon grazing allotment.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Current management of the Whitewater Canyon grazing allotment as provided in the CDCA Plan, as amended.

2.4.15 Wild Horse and Burro Program

The Palm Canyon Herd Management Area (HMA) encompasses 10,307 acres, located immediately south of the City of Palm Springs, and wholly within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Land ownership within this HMA is 27% BLM, 37% Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians tribal lands (ACBCI), 12% San Bernardino National Forest, and 24% private. The BLM portion of the HMA is located in T5S R4E, all of sections 16 and 27 and portions of sections 21, 29, 32 and 36. The Palm Canyon herd management level is set at six horses. There were eight horses within this HMA. Only one of these horses qualifies as a “wild horse” (the oldest mare) per the Wild Horse and Burro Act. The rest are illegally released freeze-branded horses, or offspring of these branded horses. The herd was being watered by Dos Palmas Spring, a developed spring located on Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian land and maintained by the Tribe. Due to the spring, the horses appear to spend most of their time on tribal land. These horses forage on public, private and Tribal lands, and have created conflicts with equestrian trail users due to the aggressiveness of the herd stallion, and potential habitat conflicts with the peninsular ranges bighorn sheep. The BLM worked closely with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to determine the future of these horses based on a cooperative management agreement with the Tribe for management of the National Monument. The horses have now been removed and there are no horses within the HMA. BLM lands within the HMA are part of a proposed exchange with the Tribe authorized by the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000.

The Morongo Herd Management Area is located approximately 15 miles northwest of the City of Palm Springs. This 39,470 acre HMA is composed of 71% BLM lands and 29% private lands. Much of this HMA is now within the San Geronio Wilderness Additions. The HMA level is set at 16 burros. There are currently no burros within this HMA .

Alternative A. Retain Palm Canyon and Morongo Herd Management Area (HMA) designations. Maintain levels set in accordance with current CDCA Plan, as amended. Establish Palm Canyon HMA as a grazing allotment for branded horses.

Proposed Plan (Alternative B). Retire Palm Canyon & Morongo HMAs. BLM parcels within and adjacent to the Palm Canyon HMA (T5S R4E and T4S R4E) would be transferred to the Agua Caliente Tribe via land exchange, in accordance with the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000 (Figure 2-9).

Alternative C. Retire Palm Canyon and Morongo HMAs. Remove existing animals from BLM-managed lands.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Retain Palm Canyon and Morongo Herd Management Areas (HMA) designations. Levels set at six and 16 animals, respectively in accordance with current CDCA Plan, as amended.

2.4.16 Motorized Vehicle Area Designations

Areas open, limited, and closed to motorized-vehicle access are clearly-defined areas designated through the land use planning process. In open areas, vehicle travel is permitted anywhere if the vehicle is operated responsibly in accordance with regulations (43 CFR Subparts 8341 and 8343), and is subject to permission of private land owners if applicable. In limited areas, motorized-vehicle access is allowed only on certain routes of travel; at the minimum, use is restricted to existing routes. In closed areas, vehicle travel is not allowed.

As required by 43 CFR 8342.1, the designation of public lands as either open, limited, or closed to off-highway vehicles (OHVs) shall be based on the protection of the resources of the public lands, the promotion of the safety of all the users of the public lands, and the minimization of conflicts among various uses of the public lands; and in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) Areas shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.
- (b) Areas shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.
- (c) Areas shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-highway vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.
- (d) Open or limited use areas shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Open or limited use areas shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

Alternative A.

- Establish four OHV open areas described as follows; acreages provided are BLM-managed lands only (Figure 2-10a):

Windy Point (777 acres) T3S R3E: Section 14, E2E2; Section 23, N2;
Section 24, N2N2, SW4NW4

Indio Hills (833 acres) T3S R5E: Section 26, Approximate NE4; T3S R6E:
Section 32, all

Iron Door (643 acres) T5S R8E: Section 6, all

Drop 31 (1,371 acres) T7S R10E: Section 24, all; Section 26, Approximate
E2; Section 22, Approximate NE4
T7S R11E: Section 30 W2

- Drop 31 would be managed in accordance with objectives outlined in Section 2.4.18, Alternative A, for the Meccacopia Special Recreation Management Area.
- Indian Avenue Preserve and Willow Hole-Edom Hill would be designated “closed.”
- Big Morongo Canyon and Dos Palmas ACECs would remain “closed.”
- All other BLM-managed public lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas would remain “limited.”
- Wilderness areas are closed to casual motorized-vehicle use by statute.

Proposed Plan (Alternative B).

- Establish an off-highway vehicle managed use area in the vicinity of Drop 31 which emphasizes opportunities for camping, trail riding and exploration along designated routes, trails and open washes. Adopt the off-highway vehicle management prescriptions set forth in the NECO Plan.
- Design and implement a network of open routes for the Drop 31 area that provides local touring options outside wilderness and connects to the regional system of open routes established under the NECO plan amendment. Designate the route system developed for the Drop 31 area through the Meccacopia Special Recreation Management Area Plan as open.
- Seek to acquire lands from willing sellers to facilitate continued opportunity and effective management for vehicle-based camping and touring in the vicinity of Drop 31. The final boundaries of the vehicle recreation area may be affected by lands available for acquisition.
- Windy Point south of Highway 111 (357 acres of public lands) would be designated “closed” to off-highway vehicles. Motorized-vehicle use of this area would be limited to emergency services and administrative personnel during performance of official duties. (see Figure 2-10a)
- Conservation areas and the remaining BLM-managed lands, except wilderness would be designated or remain “limited.” Casual motorized-vehicle travel would be restricted to routes designated “open.”
- Wilderness areas are closed to casual motorized-vehicle use by statute.
- BLM would initiate a public information effort to assist OHV users in identifying and locating the appropriate areas for various types of OHV recreation in the local area and the region, including identification of non-BLM lands where opportunities are available for such activities.
- Work with Riverside County and the OHV Recreation Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation to establish an OHV recreation area in the southeastern portion of the Coachella Valley (in or adjacent to Section 22, T5S R8E). This site is Riverside County land, is adjacent to the county landfill, and contains desirable terrain for OHV recreation and is conveniently located off Interstate 10. An OHV play area at this location would serve as an outlet and opportunity for local off-highway vehicle users, which in turn would enhance effectiveness in managing areas closed to OHV use.
- If the OHV play area lands were to be acquired by BLM, the intent would be to designate the area as “open” in order to address the need to provide an outlet for this type of use in the Coachella Valley. More detailed analysis at this time

concerning the final design, boundaries and management of the OHV play area is outside the scope of this plan amendment since the subject lands are not currently managed by BLM and sufficient information is not yet available to address those subjects. Additional information may be provided by the Coachella Valley MSHCP.

Alternative C.

- Windy Point south of Highway 111 would be designated “closed.” (see Figure 2-10a)
- Indian Avenue Preserve and Willow Hole-Edom Hill would be designated “closed.”
- Big Morongo Canyon and Dos Palmas ACECs would remain “closed.”
- All other BLM-managed public lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas would remain as “limited.”
- Wilderness areas are closed to casual motorized-vehicle use by statute.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D).

- No new area closures or off-highway vehicle open areas would be established at this time.
- Wilderness areas are closed to casual motorized-vehicle use by statute.

2.4.17 Motorized Vehicle Route Designations

Casual use of public lands in the context of motorized-vehicle access is defined as the use of routes not requiring a specific authorization. Authorized use in such context is the use of routes approved through a permitting process for specific activities (e.g., rights-of-way issued for development of communication sites or wind energy facilities). The designation of routes as “open,” “limited,” and “closed” is generally applicable to both casual and authorized users of BLM-managed lands. However, where there is a requirement for access associated with an authorized use but it is determined that unlimited casual use may cause undesirable resource impacts, routes will be designated “closed” and available for use only by the authorized party. In such circumstances, the authorized use of a “closed” route usually limits this use in some manner or requires mitigation in some form. It is anticipated that few routes will be available for use only by authorized parties. Access for the use and enjoyment of private lands will be addressed on a case-by-case basis where private landowners are adversely affected by route designation decisions.

As required by 43 CFR 8342.1, all route designations shall be based on the protection of the resources of the public lands, the promotion of the safety of all the users of the public lands, and the minimization of conflicts among various uses of the public lands; and in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) Routes shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of

wilderness suitability.

(b) Routes shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.

(c) Routes shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-highway vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.

(d) Routes shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Routes shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

Route designations apply only to routes and portions thereof on BLM-managed lands. These designations constitute CDCA Plan decisions. Changes to these decisions would require amending the CDCA Plan.

Existing Route Closures Common to All Alternatives. Certain routes in Big Morongo Canyon ACEC and Dos Palmas ACEC were closed through an amendment to the CDCA Plan; the Record of Decision was signed in April 1998. These routes, totaling 25 miles, would remain closed under all alternatives and are not included in the mileage for which decisions would be made under this CDCA Plan Amendment. For a complete description of each route and map location, see Appendix D, Table D-2.

Forty-five (45) miles of other routes on BLM-managed lands have not been available for public use over time. Many of these routes have been gated by rights-of-way holders as authorized through their grants (e.g., windfarm operators, Metropolitan Water District, Desert Water Agency) or closed through activity level decisions (e.g., routes in the Coachella Valley Preserve; decision record signed November 1995). Public access to portions of other routes on BLM-managed lands has been precluded by gates on non-BLM lands (e.g., southern portion of Dunn Road, route south of La Quinta Cove, routes accessing the southern portion of Carrizo Canyon), or precluded by posting of "no trespassing" signs by private landowners (e.g., northern portion of Dunn Road). These routes would be designated "closed" under all alternatives of this CDCA Plan Amendment. For a complete description of each route and map location, see Appendix D, Table D-3.

Alternative A. Routes currently available for casual motorized-vehicle use on BLM-managed lands would be designated "open" (see Figure 2-11a; Appendix D, Table D-4).

Table 2-7a: Motorized Vehicle Route Designations - Alternative A

Total miles open to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only)	73
Total miles currently closed to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only); no change under this alternative	70
Total miles additionally closed to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only)	0

Maintain the public route network as needed and seek legal access across private land parcels from willing sellers in areas designated for public recreation. Manage vehicle access in the Dunn Road area (including the Dry Wash route and routes in Palm Canyon, totaling 15 miles on public land) primarily for administrative purposes such as flood control, law enforcement, search and rescue, fire control, and permitted uses such as research and commercial recreation, subject to permission of private landowners for use of non-federal lands.

Proposed Plan (Alternative B). Routes within CVMSHCP conservation areas would be designated in accordance with habitat conservation objectives and air quality management strategy, while allowing for recreation opportunities (see Figure 2-11b; Appendix D, Table D-4). Routes outside the conservation areas would be designated “open” except for redundant routes (identified in Table D-4), which would be “closed” to minimize air quality non-attainment in the Coachella Valley. Off-road travel on public lands would not be allowed except in designated “open” areas. Short recreational spur roads west of the Indio air quality monitoring station would be closed.

Maintain the public route network as needed and seek legal access across private land parcels from willing sellers in areas designated for public recreation. Manage vehicle access in the Dunn Road area (including the Dry Wash route and routes in Palm Canyon, totaling 15 miles on public land) for administrative purposes such as flood control, law enforcement, search and rescue, and fire control, as well as controlled levels of permitted uses such as research and commercial recreation, subject to permission of private landowners for use of non-federal lands.

Existing gates would be maintained on Dunn Road and new gates would be installed to preclude unauthorized access from the Royal Carrizo area. Public land portions of Dunn Road, Dry Wash Road, and the access route from Royal Carrizo would be closed except for administrative and permitted access until bighorn sheep populations recover. The designation of these roads may be re-evaluated at that time. Permitted use may include limited research and recreational access by permit, contingent on acquiring access across private lands and compliance with the terms of a biological opinion. Motorized commercial recreational access would be confined to the fall months and both activities and the areas to be visited would be designed to avoid conflicts with bighorn sheep recovery, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Legal access to landowners and agencies may be provided through a right-of-way grant with terms and conditions based upon a biological opinion. Temporary landowner access may be authorized by permit.

Table 2-7b: Motorized Vehicle Route Designations – Proposed Plan

Total miles open to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only)	47
Total miles currently closed to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only); no change under this alternative	70
Total miles additionally closed to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only)	26

Alternative C. Same as Alternative B except less emphasis would be placed on opportunities for recreation. Additional routes would be closed to minimize air quality non-attainment in the Coachella Valley (see Figure 2-11c; Appendix D, Table D-4).

Table 2-7c: Motorized Vehicle Route Designations - Alternative C

Total miles open to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only)	27
Total miles currently closed to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only); no change under this alternative	70
Total miles additionally closed to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only)	46

Maintain the public route network as needed and seek legal access across private land parcels from willing sellers in areas needed to maintain the route network. Manage vehicle access in the Dunn Road area (including the Dry Wash route and routes in Palm Canyon, totaling 15 miles on public land) in a manner that allows routes to naturally reclaim over time. Where the routes are passable, allow administrative vehicle access for flood control, law enforcement, search and rescue, and fire control.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Motorized-vehicle access would continue on existing routes outside areas closed to casual motorized-vehicle use, unless otherwise closed through supplemental rules (see Figure 2-11d; Appendix D, Table D-4). Route designation would not occur at this time. Routes within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument must be designated by October 2003 in accordance with the Monument Act.

Table 2-7d: Motorized Vehicle Route Designations - Alternative D

Total miles open to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only)	73
Total miles currently closed to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only); no change under this alternative	70
Total miles additionally closed to motorized vehicles (BLM lands only)	0

Maintain the public route network as needed and seek legal access across private land parcels from willing sellers in areas designated for public recreation. Manage vehicle access in the Dunn Road area (including the Dry Wash route and routes in Palm Canyon, totaling 15 miles on public land) for administrative purposes such as flood control, law enforcement, search and rescue, fire control, research and commercial recreational uses.

2.4.18 Special Recreation Management Areas

Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) are designated where significant public recreation issues or management concerns occur. Special or more intensive types of management are typically needed. Detailed recreation planning is usually required through preparation of a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), and greater managerial investment (e.g. facilities, supervision, etc.) is likely.

Alternative A. An SRMA which includes the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wildernesses, Drop 31, and the Red Canyon Jeep Trail would be designated and named the Meccacopia Special Recreation Management Area (Figure 2-10b). Of the overall 125,441 acres, 90,304 acres of the proposed SRMA are public lands managed by the BLM. Part of the overall Meccacopia SRMA management strategy to be addressed through the RAMP includes the following:

- a) Protect wilderness values to include minimizing motorized vehicle and mechanized equipment intrusions into the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wilderness Areas.
- b) Enhance the quality of motorized recreation on public lands surrounding the two wilderness areas by providing adequate facilities and management to direct use and protect environmental values.
- c) Enhance the quality of non-motorized recreation on public lands by minimizing the potential for conflicts with motorized vehicles, and providing adequate facilities and management to direct use and protect environmental values.

Proposed Plan (Alternative B). An SRMA which includes the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wildernesses, Drop 31, and the Red Canyon Jeep Trail would be designated and named the Meccacopia Special Recreation Management Area (Figure 2-10b). Of the overall 125,441 acres, 90,304 acres of the proposed SRMA are public lands managed by the BLM. Part of the overall Meccacopia SRMA management strategy to be addressed through the RAMP includes the following:

- a) Protect wilderness values to include minimizing motorized vehicle and mechanized equipment intrusions into the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wilderness Areas.
- b) Enhance the quality of motorized recreation on public lands surrounding the two wilderness areas and wildlife watering zones (see "d" below) by providing adequate facilities and management to direct use and protect environmental values.
- c) Enhance the quality of non-motorized recreation on public lands by minimizing the potential for conflicts with motorized vehicles, and providing adequate facilities and management to direct use and protect environmental values.
- d) Construct and maintain additional water sources with limited vehicle access to discourage bighorn sheep from using the Coachella Canal and to minimize conflicts with off-highway vehicle users. Development of water sources inside wilderness areas would be consistent with limits and guidelines established in the

Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan (NECO Plan). Also per the NECO Plan, additional guzzlers in wilderness may be considered upon completion of the relevant meta-population plan by the California Department of Fish and Game. Development of wildlife water sources outside wilderness would be based on analysis and approval of site specific proposals developed in consultation with California Department of Fish and Game.

Alternative C. An SRMA which includes the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wildernesses, and the Red Canyon Jeep Trail would be designated and named the Meccacopia Special Recreation Management Area (Figure 2-10b). Of the overall 125,441 acres, 90,304 acres of the proposed SRMA are public lands managed by the BLM. Part of the overall Meccacopia SRMA management strategy to be addressed through the RAMP includes the following:

- a) Protect wilderness values to include minimizing motorized vehicle and mechanized equipment intrusions into the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wildernesses.
- b) Enhance the quality of motorized recreation on public lands surrounding the two wilderness areas by providing adequate facilities and management to direct use and protect environmental values.
- c) Enhance the quality of non-motorized recreation on public lands by minimizing the potential for conflicts with motorized vehicles, and providing adequate facilities and management to direct use and protect environmental values.
- d) Close areas where vehicle use is significantly limiting or preventing wildlife access to water.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). No SRMA would be designated at this time. Management would continue based on existing uses and designations.

2.4.19 Recreation: Stopping, Parking, and Vehicle Camping

This plan element describes the maximum distance which motorized vehicles may pull off an approved route to stop, park, or camp. For all of these alternatives, the following exception applies: Where wilderness boundaries are coincident with approved routes, stopping, parking, and vehicle camping must remain outside the wilderness boundary.

Proposed Plan (Alternatives A & B). Stopping, parking, and vehicle camping would be allowed within 100 feet from the centerline of an approved route except where fenced.

Alternative C. Stopping, parking, and vehicle camping would be allowed within 300 feet from the *centerline* of an approved route except within ACECs and conservation areas where the limit would be 30 feet for stopping and parking. Vehicle camping within CVMSHCP conservation areas would not be allowed.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Stopping, parking, and vehicle camping would be

allowed within 300 feet of a route of travel except within ACECs where the limit would be 100 feet.

2.4.20 Recovery Strategy for Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep

The proposed Recovery Strategy for Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep emphasizes restoration of public lands and coordination of conservation efforts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, local jurisdictions, and non-government organizations to promote recovery of bighorn sheep. A combination of habitat improvement projects, management of land uses to avoid, reduce, or mitigate disturbance, and excluding bighorn sheep from the urban environment is proposed. The *Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California (USFWS 2000)* was used in the development of this strategy. References to the Recovery Plan are in parentheses.

Land Use Plan Decisions Common to All Alternatives. These measures, in addition to those described under the alternatives below, would be implemented to promote recovery of bighorn sheep.

Objective A: Restore and manage habitat to promote recovery of bighorn sheep

- Acquire, or exchange to acquire, bighorn sheep habitat from willing landowners (Recovery Plan p. 75).
- Implement a fire management plan in fire adapted habitats to help maintain bighorn sheep habitat (Recovery Plan p. 78).
- Management of invasive weeds such as tamarisk, arundo, and fountain grass will continue to be a priority habitat management effort (Recovery Plan p. 77).

Objective B: Manage land uses to avoid, reduce, or mitigate disturbance

- Manage aircraft activities to reduce or eliminate habitat fragmentation or interference with bighorn sheep resource use patterns (Recovery Plan p. 89).
- Manage road use on BLM-managed lands, consistent with the CDCA Plan (1980) as amended, to minimize habitat fragmentation or interference with bighorn sheep resource use patterns (Recovery Plan p. 89).
- Develop and implement education and public awareness programs (Recovery Plan pp. 104-107).
- Publish an annual report describing management, monitoring results, and management implications of research conducted on BLM-managed public lands.

Objective C: Manage bighorn sheep populations to promote recovery.

- Coordinate all management and monitoring efforts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, and local jurisdictions to ensure a

- landscape level approach to recovery of bighorn sheep populations.
- Make public lands available for species management by California Department of Fish and Game for activities, such as predator management, reintroduction and augmentation, conducted in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local jurisdictions, and in accordance with the *Master Memorandum of Understanding between the California Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Land Management* (October 1993). (Recovery Plan pp. 92-94).

Alternative A. BLM would work with the local partners, focusing on actions that would restore natural systems and exclude bighorn sheep from the urban areas.

Objective A: Restore and manage habitat to promote recovery of bighorn sheep

- Maintain existing water sources and provide additional water sources on public lands using primarily habitat restoration methods. Artificial water installation may be used where habitat restoration efforts are ineffective (Recovery Plan pp. 77 and 79).

Objective B: Manage land uses to avoid, reduce, or mitigate disturbance

- Work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game, local jurisdictions, and user groups to reduce impacts from all human activities on bighorn sheep by relying primarily on voluntary avoidance programs. Few constraints would be placed on the subject or methods for research on public lands (Recovery Plan pp. 83-89).

Objective C: Manage bighorn sheep populations to promote recovery.

- Construct fences across public lands to exclude bighorn sheep from urban areas where they have begun or may begin using urban sources of food and water (Recovery Plan p. 80).

Proposed Plan (Alternative B). BLM would allow for more hands-on management of bighorn sheep and habitat.

Objective A: Restore and manage habitat to promote recovery of bighorn sheep.

- Maintain existing water sources through tamarisk eradication and provide additional artificial water sources on public lands. Locations for artificial water sources would be carefully selected to reduce interactions between bighorn and the urban interface (Recovery Plan pp. 77 and 79).

Objective B: Manage land uses to avoid, reduce, or mitigate disturbance

- Reduce impacts to bighorn sheep (especially during the water stress and lambing season) using a combination of methods, including voluntary avoidance programs, closures, seasonal restrictions, and permit

stipulations and mitigations. Projects emphasizing the least disturbing techniques available and practicable would be encouraged. Some level of disturbance to bighorn sheep may be permitted during water stress and lambing season to obtain information, resulting in more effective management of bighorn sheep and their habitat (Recovery Plan pp. 83-89).

Objective C: Manage bighorn sheep populations to promote recovery.

- Construct fences across public lands to exclude bighorn sheep from urban areas where there is a demonstrated problem. Projects would be coordinated with local jurisdictions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game to ensure that water is available before sheep are excluded from urban areas known to provide water (Recovery Plan p. 80).

Alternative C. Alternative C would approach recovery by emphasizing natural processes with limited management intervention, except to provide more water where necessary.

Objective A: Restore and manage habitat to promote recovery of bighorn sheep

- Concentrate efforts to provide additional water sources on public lands through installation of artificial waters. Installation of watering devices would be restricted to the fall (Recovery Plan pp. 77-79).

Objective B: Manage land uses to avoid, reduce, or mitigate disturbance

- Human activities within bighorn sheep habitat on BLM lands would be largely curtailed through implementation of trail closures, especially in lambing and watering areas. Administrative activities and permitted activities (such as patrolling and research) would be restricted to the minimum necessary to protect bighorn sheep (Recovery Plan pp. 83-89).

Objective C: Manage bighorn sheep populations to promote recovery

- Allow fence construction across public lands only where necessary to complete a fence crossing other jurisdictions and where there is a demonstrated problem that a fence would effectively address (Recovery Plan p. 80).

No Action Alternative (D). Continuation of current management in accordance with the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended).

Objective A: Restore and manage habitat to promote recovery of bighorn sheep

- Continue efforts to control tamarisk. Artificial waters may be considered on a case-by-case basis (Recovery Plan p. 80).

Objective B: Manage land uses to avoid, reduce, or mitigate disturbance

- Discretionary land uses, including recreation, research and monitoring may be considered on a case-by-case basis (Recovery Plan pp. 83-89).

Objective C: Manage bighorn sheep populations to promote recovery

- Fence construction may be considered on a case-by-case basis (Recovery Plan p. 80).
- Public lands may be considered for reintroduction, augmentation, or predator control after analysis and public comment (Recovery Plan pp. 92-94).

2.4.21 Hiking, Biking & Equestrian Trails

Proposed Plan (Alternatives A, B & C). Manage trail segments across public lands in coordination with members of the public, local jurisdictions, State and other Federal agencies to provide for a year-round suite of non-motorized recreation opportunities on interconnected trails in the Coachella Valley and surrounding mountains. Non-motorized uses of the public lands within the Coachella Valley planning area may be limited, including area and trail closures, as needed to protect sensitive resources. New trails which avoid impacts to sensitive resources and are developed in coordination with the community may be allowed.

No Action Alternative (Alternative D). Non-motorized uses of the public lands and development of new trails would be allowed, in accordance with Federal law and regulation.

2.5 Plan Maintenance

BLM land use plans shall be maintained (43 CFR 1610.5-4) to further refine or document previously approved decisions incorporated into the plan. Several of BLM's CDCA Plan Amendment alternatives are contingent upon the conservation boundary established through the CVMSHCP. Most of the CVMSHCP conservation boundary has been largely delineated. Pending completion of the CVMSHCP, the BLM shall utilize the proposed conservation boundary which has been agreed to by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments as of the date of the Record of Decision for the BLM CDCA Plan Amendment.

The final, approved CVMSHCP boundary would be updated in the CDCA Plan Amendment through plan maintenance as uses or restrictions on the BLM-managed public lands would not change substantially. In the event that the CVMSHCP is not completed, the land use designations established for the BLM-managed lands through this CDCA Plan Amendment would remain extant, until such time a subsequent CDCA Plan Amendment was deemed necessary.

2.6 Plan Implementation

Some land use plan decisions, such as area designations or route designations become effective immediately upon approval of the plan by the State Director. Other decisions are implemented as resources and funding become available (BLM Manual 1601 .06F), through Congress, grants or partnerships. All activities on the BLM-managed public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) must be in conformance with the approved CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) (43 CFR 1610.5-3). Subsequent actions to implement the CDCA Plan, subsequent activity/implementation level planning, and new projects are subject to further environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other environmental laws. These environmental documents may tier to the environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared for this CDCA Plan Amendment to provide the cumulative impact analysis for proposed activities. These proposed activities are also subject to laws, regulations and policies which provide guidance on how to protect sensitive resources, as site specific projects are implemented in conformance with the approved plan. The following is a summary of the more pertinent laws, regulations and policies which guide implementation of the CDCA Plan (1980 as amended).

Table 2-8: Policy and Management Guidance for Plan Implementation

ELEMENT	POLICY and MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE
Plan Monitoring	In accordance with BLM planning manual guidance, BLM shall monitor and evaluate the continued effectiveness of the CDCA Plan, as amended, in meeting the goals and objectives of the CVMSHCP and other multiple uses in the Coachella Valley.
Valid Existing Rights	Disposal of parcels with existing land use authorizations will be subject to valid existing rights. Subsequent BLM actions may not have the effect of terminating any validly issued right-of-way, or customary operation, maintenance, repair and replacement activities in such rights-of-way issued in accordance with Section 509(a) and 701(a) of FLPMA.
Special Status Species	In order to minimize adverse impacts to special status species and to avoid future listings, the BLM would confer or consult as necessary, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all special status species.
Cultural Resources	All management actions shall comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which provides for the protection of significant cultural resources. In furtherance of this Act, the 36 CFR 800 procedures shall be conducted pursuant to the State Protocol Agreement (1998) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer. An appropriate level of inventory shall be conducted for all actions with a potential to affect cultural resources.
Native American Concerns	For all public land activities adjacent to reservation lands, the BLM shall consult with the relevant tribes to determine potential impact to Native American trust assets and cultural values and to develop mitigation measures if needed.

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ELEMENT	POLICY and MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE
Vector Prevention and Control	In addition to complying with California Health and Safety Code, all permittees on BLM land would be encouraged to consult with the local vector control agency to adopt the best methods for vector prevention and control, including minimizing any areas of standing water or managing such areas (in sand and gravel mines, etc.). BLM would consult with local vector control agencies to follow practices to decrease the probability of mosquito breeding and allow for routine vector surveillance (or abatement if necessary) and maintenance. BLM would include vector control in outreach programs and materials. The California Department of Health Services (DHS) is given broad powers to abate public nuisances and disease vectors within the state (see Health & Safety Code sections §§100170 and §§116100).
Mining and Utility Proposals	Proposed extraction sites and new utility sites shall be surveyed for cultural resources, and sensitive, threatened and endangered species prior to approval and appropriately mitigated. Guidance on what constitutes “appropriate mitigation” may be found in the various recovery plans prepared for Federally listed species, and the rangewide management strategy for the flat-tailed horned lizard. Appropriate mitigation measures to protect water resources and hydrology would be applied, including, but not exclusively: 1) setting maximum pit depth above maximum anticipated groundwater levels, 2) location of mining pits outside of active watercourse channels, and/or 3) reduction of pit slope angles on active alluvial fans to reduce upstream headcutting and erosion.
Land Exchanges, Sales and Acquisitions	All land exchange, sale and acquisition proposals are discretionary Bureau actions, depending on overall Bureau priorities and resource capabilities at the time. Selected BLM lands will be evaluated for presence of mineral resources and significant cultural and Native American sites. If found, these values will be compensated, mitigated or not available for exchange in accordance with law, regulation, and policy.
Management of Lands Acquired through Exchange	Lands acquired by exchange shall be managed in accordance with existing regulations and provisions of applicable land use plans. Lands acquired by exchange located within the boundaries of ACECs or any other area having an administrative designation established through the land use planning process shall become part of the area within which they are located and managed accordingly. No further action is necessary (43 CFR 2200.0-6(g).)

ELEMENT	POLICY and MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE
Management of Withdrawn Lands	<p>Withdrawn lands are public lands withheld from settlement, sale, location or entry under some or all of the general land laws in order to reserve the area for a particular public purpose; or transferring jurisdiction over an area of Federal land from one department, bureau or agency to another (43 CFR 2300.0-5(h).) Withdrawals are instituted through Acts of Congress or approved by the Secretary of the Interior.</p> <p>Management responsibility over withdrawn lands often results in a jurisdictional transfer to another agency. For example, public lands withdrawn to the Bureau of Reclamation are administered by BOR, which is responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, etc.</p> <p>Withdrawals approved by the Secretary are discretionary and shall be reviewed two years prior to their expiration. During withdrawal review, the Secretary shall determine if the lands are being used appropriately for the purposes of the withdrawal, assess compliance with the regulations and consider other factors, before making a decision to extend or terminate the withdrawal (43 CFR 2310.4.) Withdrawals instituted by Act of Congress terminate as specified in the statute (43 CFR 2091.5-6). Lands removed from withdrawn status are not subject to the applicable BLM land and minerals laws until an opening order is published in the <i>Federal Register</i> (43 CFR 2091.6).</p>